THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Major steps taken by Government to reduce the incidence of poaching are as follows:—

(i) Hunting and trade in respect of endangered and rare species of wild animals is banned. Hunting of other species of wild animals is regulated under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Assistance is provided to State Governments under a centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructure to apprehend poachers and illicit traders.

(iii) Scheme of cash rewards for providing information about poachers and illegal traders is being implemented.

(iv) Better coordination has been established at the State level between police and wildlife officials and at the Centre with officials of Customs Department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(v) International trade in respect of wild animals and products derived therefrom is strictly regulated with reference to provision given in Export Policy and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

Export of Iron Ore from Paradeep Port

2099. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron ore exported through Paradeep Port to different countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of iron ore during the current financial year ;

(c) if so, the total tonnes of iron ore proposed to be exported through Paradeep Port to different countries in 1989-90 financial year; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The total quantity of iron ore exported through Paradeep Port to different countries during the last three years, year-wise, was as under—

(Qty. in lakh WMT)

Year	Quantity
1986-87	20.80
1987-88	17.09
1988-89	16.39

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) MMTC the sole agency exporting iron ore through Paradeep Port, has so far concluded contracts for export of 19.75 lakh tonnes of iron ore through this Port during 1989-90 to Japan, Romania, GDR, China, DPRK and Middle East.

Tempering of Taxi and TSR Meters in Delhi

2100. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of large scale tampering of taxi and TSR-meters in Delhi, has come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during each quarter of 1988 and 1989 so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken to effectively prevent such exploition of public by TSR and taxi drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) 9 cases of tampering of taxi meters and 314 of auto-rikshaw meters came to the notice of the Administration during the second quarter of 1989 (1.4.89 to 30.6.89). Cases have been registered against the delinquent persons. The Weights and Measures Department in collaboration with the Directorate of Transport are organising regular checking of taxi and auto-rikshaw fare meters to prevent exploitation of public.

FICCI's Suggestion for Improving Export Performance

2101. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Executive of FICCI at its meeting held on 20th May, 1989 at Bombay, proposed certain rational and radical changes to improve the export performance;

(b) if so, what specific changes in the regulations were proposed; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to the Press Statement issued on 19th May 1989, the FICCI President proposed some changes such as Modification in Foreign Exchange Regulations Act (FERA) to ensure greater exports of products, services and projects, facilitate greater flow of foreign investment and to step up India's joint ventures abroad.

(c) No formal proposal enlisting the changes suggested in the meeting held on the 19th May, 1989 has been received from FICCI.

Refusal by USR to Export Pig Iron to India

2102. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USSR has refused export over 2.3 tonne of foundry-grade pig iron as India failed to export alumina to that country as per the bilateral trade agreement:

(b) whether Soviet Government lodged any complaint in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Indo-Soviet Trade Plan does not provide for any direct link up between individual items of import and individual items of export and the imports and the exports proceed independently. In the Trade Plan for 1989, alumina is included in the export list and pig iron without specifying the grade is included in the list of imports. While the Trade Plan is drawn up at the level of Government, the actual contracting takes place at the level of various organisations depending on relevant factors like offers for supply, specifications, price, etc. Some contracts for export of alumina have already been concluded. Similarly some contracts for import of basic grade pig iron have already been concluded. Both the Governments jointly endeavour to ensure that the Trade Plan is implemented. As the Trade Plan which is for the calendar year 1989 as a whole, is presently in progress, the exact position of implementation will become clear only after the year is over and the trade figures become available.